

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

DISTRICT 7, REGIONAL PLANNING

IGR/CEQA BRANCH

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IGR/CEQA No. 051117AL, DIR
Long Beach Airport Terminal Improvement Project
Vic. LA-405 / PM 3.32 to 4.88, LA-19, 605, 710

December 9, 2005

Ms. Angela Reynolds, Environmental Officer
Planning and Building
City of Long Beach
333 West Ocean Boulevard
Long Beach, CA 90802

Dear Ms. Reynolds:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for the above referenced project.

The proposed project, by its nature, is not expected to generate additional trips over the existing since the project deals with facilitating the Airport to handle future increases in passengers under the permitted limits. In other words, the project is Long Beach's mitigation to the Airport facility. Nonetheless, Traffic Impact Study is required to assess a Cumulative impact under the Optimized flight level Scenario. For the Caltrans facilities (Freeway 405 and the associated ramps) in the area, the study based on CMP criteria and some assumptions is brief. The study does not clearly state the current level of Airport operation in terms of number of flights daily and number of passengers annually. Using the data from Ontario and Orange County Airports, the study assesses additional trips and concludes that additional trips due to optimized flight levels will not cause any significant deterioration in peak hour LOS over and beyond the effect by cumulative projects through year 2020. The cumulative project list in the study includes much talked about Douglas Park project.

The 405 freeway segment in both directions between Western Ave. in the west and freeway 605 in the east of the Airport, today, runs congested (stop-and-go) during AM and PM peak. Caltrans, earlier, identified this segment as becoming further deteriorated upon implementation of The Douglas Park project. The segment which has 5 lanes (includes HOV) in each direction is in a dire need for major mitigation. Although, in the study it is mentioned that a large percentage of arriving/departing passengers are from the immediate areas, that scenario can not be relied on. Trip origins can change over time and

with the availability of the improved Airport facilities. The City Of Long Beach is in an explosive growth pattern and the freeway facilities (605,405,710) serving the City must remain of concern for Caltrans as well as for the City. A joint major mitigation effort is needed now.

Storm water run-off is a sensitive issue for Los Angeles and Ventura counties. Please be mindful of your need to discharge clean run-off water.

Any transportation of heavy construction equipment and/or materials which requires the use of oversized-transport vehicles on State highways will require a Caltrans transportation permit. We recommend that large size truck trips be limited to off-peak commute periods. Thank you for the opportunity to have reviewed this project.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (213) 897-3747 or Alan Lin the project coordinator at (213) 897-8391 and refer to IGR/CEQA No. 051117AL.

Sincerely,

Edwin C. Kampmann, for

CHERYL J. POWELL
IGR/CEQA Branch Chief